The American Graduation Initiative: The Impact on a Community College

Ginger Yavorski
Assistant Registrar
Northampton Community College
Bethlehem, PA
Northampton community college

- We are located in Bethlehem, PA
- We serve over 11,000 students
- Program completion
What is The American Graduation Initiative?

NCC Requirements

NCC Survey (2009)

Changes we Made

New NCC Survey (Spring 2012)

What we’ve been doing

What we plan on doing

Questions / Comments / Open
What is AGI?

The American Graduation Initiative

Proposal made by President Obama to increase the number of community college graduates by 5 million by the year 2020.

American Association of Community Colleges
We have graduation and commencement.

Students are required to apply for graduation.

Attending the ceremony is optional.
NCC REQUIREMENTS

Confusion over the requirements
(as told by students)

9 “I walked at the ceremony so that makes me a graduate right?”

9 “I know you just had graduation, where’s my diploma?”

9 “I didn’t know I needed to apply.”
“The old way” students found out

- Flyers
- Posters
- Letters to Department Heads and students in online Programs
The approach of your NCC graduation is an exciting time! It is during this period that students apply for graduation and check to see what remaining requirements need to be fulfilled. We at NCC strive to make this process as smooth as possible for students. We are conducting this brief survey to see how well we are doing and how we can improve the process.

All responses are voluntary, anonymous and confidential and will not affect your graduation in any way. When you are finished, simply return your questionnaire in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Yavorski, Assistant Registrar, at (610) 861-4143 or gyavorski@northampton.edu.

Using a pen or pencil, fill in marks completely like this: and not like this: ✶ or ✦.

1. How did you first become aware that you needed to apply for graduation?
   - Received mailing from Records Office
   - Heard from other students
   - Read it in student handbook
   - My advisor told me
   - Discovered it on website
   - Saw posters/flyers on campus
   - Other

2. When did you become aware that students need to apply in order to graduate?
   - Soon after I started my courses at NCC
   - Well into my studies at NCC
   - Very recently

3. Are you aware that applying for graduation and attending the commencement ceremony are separate functions?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Have you used Spartan Net to view your degree audit and to verify your requirements (with or without the help of an advisor)?
   - Yes
   - No, I have forgotten or have not taken time
   - No, I was not aware this information was available on Spartan Net

5. How easy did you find the process to apply for graduation?
   - Very Easy
   - Somewhat Easy
   - Not At All Easy

6. How did you apply for graduation?
   - Online
   - Paper form

7. Have you referred to the NCC website for information on graduation and commencement?
   - Yes
   - No, I have forgotten or have not taken time
   - No, I was not aware this information was available on the NCC website

8. Overall, how satisfied are you with the graduation certification process from the Records Office?
   - Very Satisfied
   - Somewhat Satisfied
   - Not At All Satisfied

9. Have you been primarily a full-time student or a part-time student?
   - Full-time
   - Part-time

10. What comments do you have to improve the graduation process?

Thank You!
2009 SURVEY RESULTS
2009 SURVEY RESULTS

The diagram shows the results of a survey question: "Referred to Web for info? About 50% yes but about 30% unaware." The data is presented in a bar graph with the following categories:

- "Yes": 55%, 55%, 24%, 55%
- "No Target or No Time": 24%, 32%, 28%, 28%
- "No Web Aware": 25%, 55%, 18%, 26%

2009 SURVEY RESULTS

SATISFACTION WITH GRAD CERTIFICATION PROCESS - MOST ARE

- May 2009 (n=154)
- Aug 2009 (n=55)
- Dec 2009 (n=138)
- May 2010 (n=216)

- Very Satisfied: 54%, 18%, 26%, 62%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 26%, 26%, 26%, 34%
- Neutral: 5%, 3%, 7%, 4%
- Not Satisfied: 10%, 26%, 7%, 0%

Vertical (Value) Axis Major Gridlines
Our RESPONSE TO SURVEY RESULTS

- Flyers and Posters across campus
- Social Media:
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Campus TV Screens, Student Life Zone Screens
- Target e-mail to students with 45 or more credits
- Distributing Graduation Applications in Advising and Counseling Offices
The approach of your NCC graduation is an exciting time! It is during this period that students apply for graduation and check to see what remaining requirements need to be fulfilled. We at NCC strive to make this process as smooth as possible for students. We are conducting this brief survey to see how well we are doing and how we can improve the process.

All responses are voluntary, anonymous and confidential and will not affect your graduation in any way. When you are finished, simply return your questionnaire in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Yavorski, Assistant Registrar, at (610) 861-4143 or gyavorski@northampton.edu.

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### 1. How did you first become aware that you needed to apply for graduation?
- Instructor told me about it
- Advisor told me about it
- Other students told me about it
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email from NCC Records and Registration
- Discovered it when I registered
- Saw posters and flyers on campus
- Other __________________________

### 2. Are you aware that applying for graduation is required and attending the commencement ceremony is optional?
- Yes
- No

### 3. Have you referred to the NCC website for information on graduation and commencement?
- Yes
- No, I have forgotten or have not taken time
- No, I was not aware this information was available on the NCC website

### 4. Overall, how satisfied are you with the graduation certification process from the Records Office?
- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Not At All Satisfied

### 5. Have you been primarily a full-time student or a part-time student while at NCC?
- Full-time
- Part-time

### 6. What comments do you have to improve the graduation process?

**THANK YOU!**

For Office Use Only

| J | O |
| F | O |
| M | O |
| A | O |
| M | O |
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- Posters and flyers around campus
- Reminders on Facebook and Twitter
- Target e-mails to students in Capstone Courses
- Distributing mini flyers to students at advising
- Providing the Advising and Counseling Offices with graduation applications to distribute to their advisees
WHAT WE PLAN ON DOING

9 Increased interaction with and awareness among faculty and staff

10 Students count on their Professors and Advisors to inform them of requirements and deadlines

10 Joint letter from academic department and Records & Registration

10 Encouraging students to “transfer back” remaining credits
Thank You

QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS.